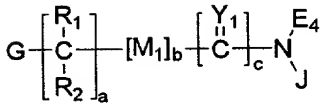
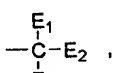
WE CLAIM:

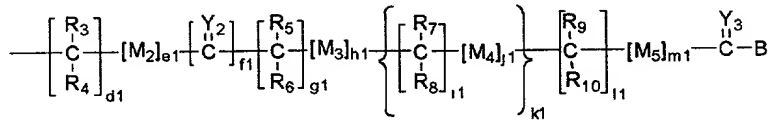
1. A compound comprising the formula:



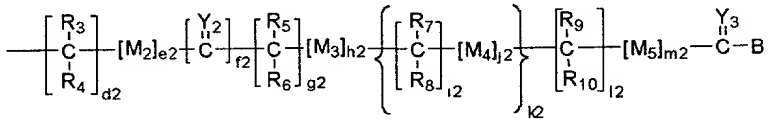
(I)

wherein:

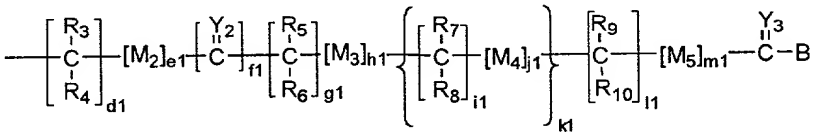
J is  ,



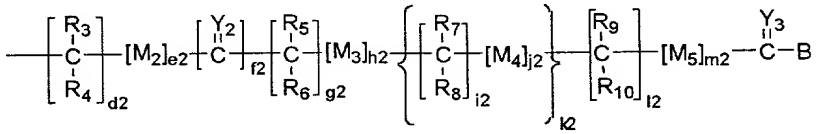
or



E_{1-4} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy, C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy,



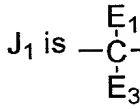
or



and at least one of E_{1-4} includes a B moiety;

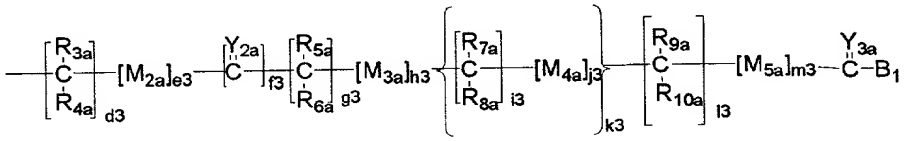
B is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety, a residue of an amine-containing moiety or

wherein E_5 is independently selected from the same group which defines E_{1-4};

J_1 is  ,

E_{1a-3a} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls,

C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy, C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy,



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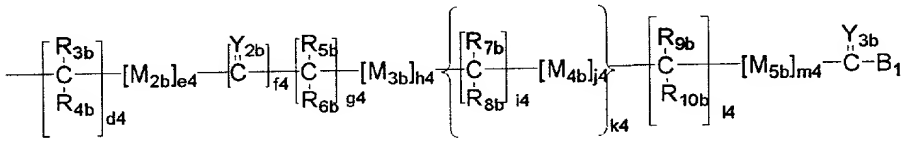
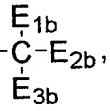
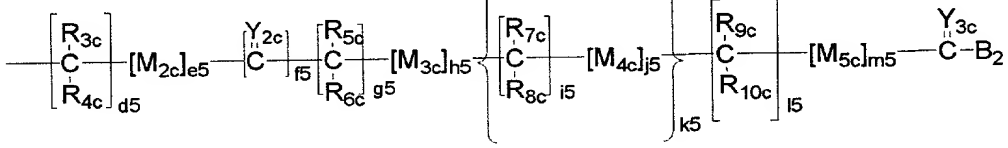


wherein B_1 is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amine-containing moiety or

wherein E_6 is independently selected from the same group which defines E_{1-4};

J_2 is  ,

wherein E_{1b-3b} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy, C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy,



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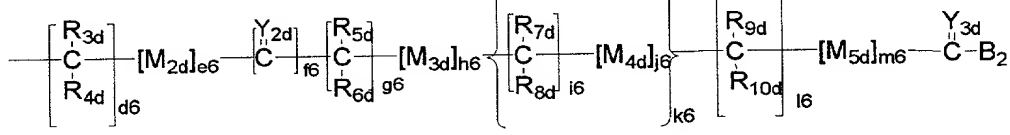


wherein B_2 is a leaving group, OH, a residue of a hydroxyl-containing moiety or a residue of an amine-containing moiety;

G is a polymeric residue;

Y_{1-3}, Y_{2a-d} and Y_{3a-d} are each independently O, S or NR_{11a}

M_{1-4}, M_{2a-2d}, M_{3a-3d}, and M_{4a-4d} are each independently O, S or NR_{11b};

M_5 and M_{5a-d} are each independently X or Q,

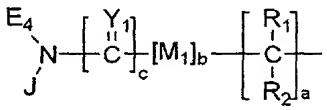
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_3)$ or $C(=Y_{3a-d})$;

R_{1-10}, R_{1a-11a}, R_{1b-11b}, R_{1c-10c} and R_{1d-10d} are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy and C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy; and

a, b, c, d1- d6, e1-e6, f1- f6, g1- g6, h1- h6, i1- i6, j1- j6, k1- k6, l1- l6, m1- m6 are each independently zero or a positive integer.

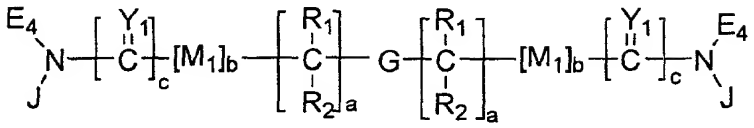
2. The compound of claim 1, wherein G further comprises a capping group A, which is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, CO_2H, C_{1-6} alkyl moieties, and

(I')



wherein *a*, *b*, *c*, R_{1-2}, M_1, Y_1, E_4 and J are the same as set forth in claim 1.

3. A compound of claim 2, of the formula:



4. The compound of claim 1, where *a, b, c, d1- d6, e1-e6, f1- f6, g1- g6, h1- h6, i1- i6, j1- j6, k1- k6, l1- l6, m1- m6* are independently zero, one or two.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 and R_2 are both H, *a* and *c* are one, Y_1 is O and both E_1 and E_4 are H.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein G is polyalkylene oxide residue.

7. The compound of claim 6, wherein G is a polyethylene glycol residue.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein G is $-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ or $-O-(CH(CH_3)CH_2O)_x$,

wherein x is the degree of polymerization.

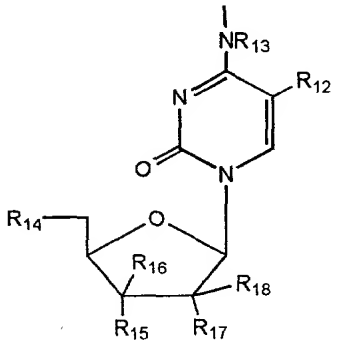
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein G is $-O-(CH_2CH_2O)_x$ and x is a positive integer so that the weight average molecular weight is at least about 20,000.

10. The compound of claim 9, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 20,000 to about 100,000.

11. The compound of claim 10, wherein G has a weight average molecular weight of from about 25,000 to about 60,000.

12. The compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of an amine - containing moiety.

13. The compound of claim 12, wherein said amine-containing moiety is

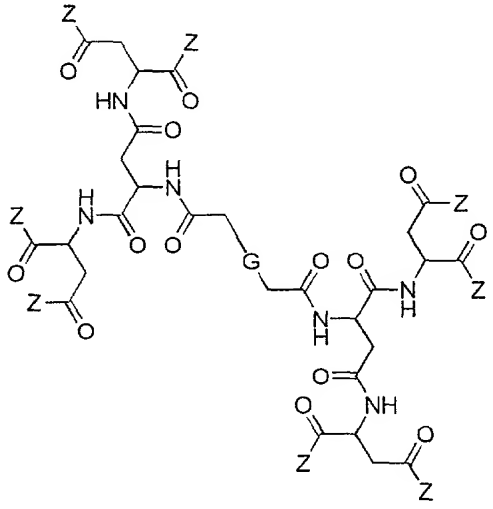


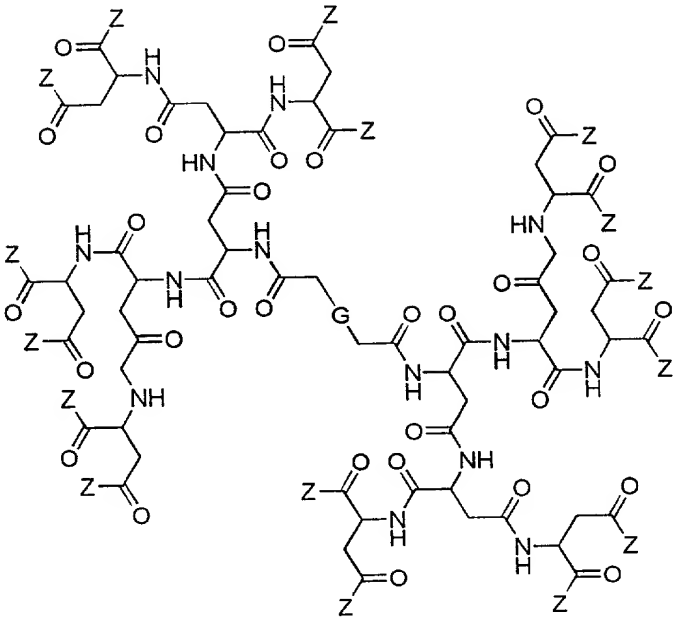
wherein

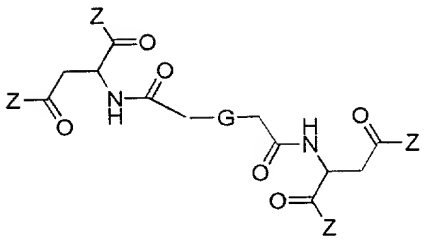
$R_{12\text{-}13}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, halo, substituted aryls, aralkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls, substituted $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls;

$R_{14\text{-}18}$ are independently selected from alkoxy, e.g. OR_{19} or, in the alternative, H, OH, N_3, NHR_{20}, NO_2 or CN, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, where $R_{19\text{-}20}$ are independently selected from the same group which defines $R_{12\text{-}13}$.

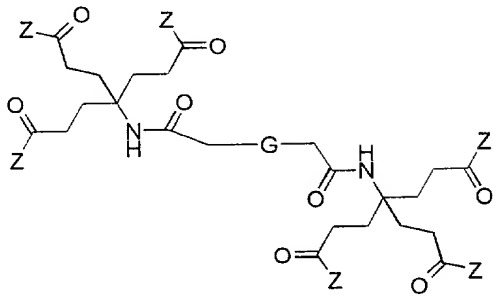
14. A compound of claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:



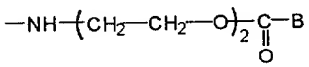




and



wherein Z is one of: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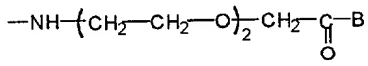
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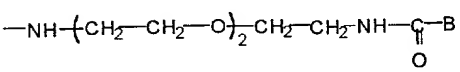
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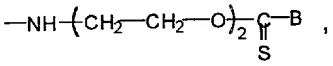
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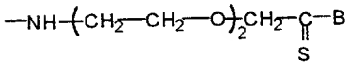
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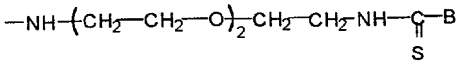
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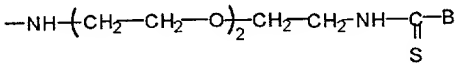
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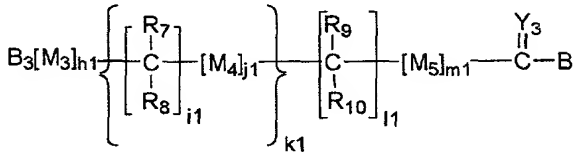
15. A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising

a) reacting compound of the formula:



wherein

B is a residue of a biologically active amine-containing moiety or a hydroxyl-containing moiety;

B_3 is a cleavable protecting group;

Y_3 is O, S, or NR_{11a};

M_3 and M_4 are independently O, S, or NR_{11b},

M_5 is X or Q;

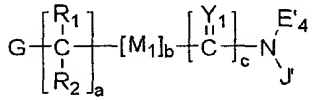
wherein X is an electron withdrawing group and Q is a moiety containing a free electron pair positioned three to six atoms from $C(=Y_3)$;

$R_{7\text{-}10}$ and $R_{11a\text{-}b}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls and substituted $C_{1\text{-}6}$ heteroalkyls;

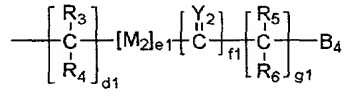
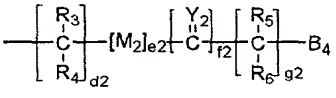
h1-m1 are each independently zero or a positive integer;

b) cleaving the cleavable protecting group B_3; and

c) reacting the resultant compound with a compound of the formula

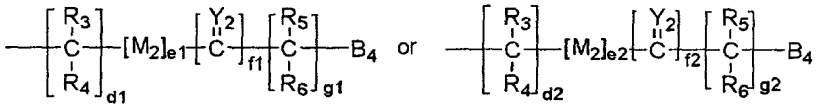


wherein

J' is  ,  or 

$E'_{1\text{-}4}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}12}$ branched alkyls, $C_{3\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyls, $C_{1\text{-}6}$ substituted alkyls,

C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls, C_{1-6} alkoxy, phenoxy, C_{1-6} heteroalkoxy,



wherein

B_4 is a leaving group;

G is a polymer residue;

Y_{1-2} are independently O, S, or NR_{11a};

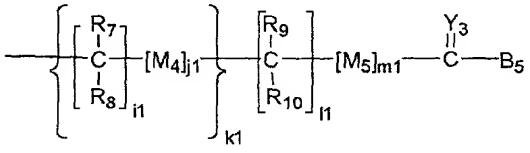
M_{1-2} are independently O, S, or NR_{11b},

R_{1-6}, R_9 and R_{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

a, b, c, d_1-g_1 and d_2-g_2 are each independently zero or a positive integer, whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

16. A method of preparing a polymeric transport system, comprising:

reacting a biologically active moiety containing an unprotected amino or hydroxyl group with polymeric residue containing a terminal moiety of the formula:



wherein:

Y_3 is O, S, or NR_{11a};

R_{7-10} and NR_{11a} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyls, C_{3-12} branched alkyls, C_{3-8} cycloalkyls, C_{1-6} substituted alkyls, C_{3-8} substituted cycloalkyls, aryls, substituted aryls, aralkyls, C_{1-6} heteroalkyls and substituted C_{1-6} heteroalkyls;

M_{4-5} are independently O, S, or NR_{11b},

B_5 is a leaving group capable of reacting with an unprotected amino or

hydroxyl group of a biologically active moiety; and

i1-m1 are each independently zero or a positive integer,

whereby a polymeric conjugate is formed.

17. A method of treatment, comprising:

administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.

18. A method of treatment, comprising:

administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of claim 3, wherein B is a residue of a biologically active moiety.